

Message Text

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APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MR. KORN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 190338

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR ACTION

FOLLOWING SENT COPENHAGEN INFO JIDDA KUWAIT OSLO ZURICH RABAT
TEHRAN BAGHDAD AMMAN EC BRUSSELS OECD PARIS FROM SECSTATE
WASHDC 29 AUG 74:

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 190338

E.O. 11652: XGS-2

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION (C-ER-4-58345)

1. WE ARE STUDYING WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION. FERTILIZER
IS IN TIGHT SUPPLY THROUGHOUT WORLD, WHICH WILL PROBABLY
LIMIT HOPED FOR INCREASES IN GRAIN YIELDS. PRICES OF
FERTILIZER ARE CURRENTLY FOUR TO FIVE TIMES LEVEL OF ONE
YEAR AGO, UNDERCUTTING PLANS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TO INCREASE FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION. THESE SUBJECTS
ARE OF INTEREST TO US POLICY MAKERS CONCERNED WITH WORLD
FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

2. WEST EUROPEAN AND ARAB FERTILIZER PRODUCERS ARE
SCHEDULED TO MEET IN COPENHAGEN ON SEPTEMBER 3-4 TO
DISCUSS JOINT MARKETING AND PRICING STRATEGIES DURING
1974-75. THE PRODUCERS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING THEIR

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ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION.

RESULTS OF THIS MEETING COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ON WORLD FERTILIZER SUPPLY AND PRICES.

3. SOME OF THE PRODUCERS REPORTEDLY ATTENDING CONFERENCE
ARE:

A. SHAHPUR CHEMICAL COMPANY-TEHERAN; B. ASMIDA
COMPANY-IRAQ; C. SAUDI ARABIAN FERTILIZER COMPANY-JIDDA;
D. NITREX-ZURICH; E. INTERNATIONAL ORE AND FERTILIZER
COMPANY-ROME; F. KUWAIT CHEMICAL FERTILIZER COMPANY-KUWAIT;
G. NORSK HYDRE AS-OSLO.

4. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN
AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THIS MEETING AS POSSIBLE.
MEETING WILL REPORTEDLY BE HELD AT HOTEL ROYAL. WE
ARE INTERESTED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THIS MEETING BUT WOULD
BE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. WILL WEST EUROPEAN AND ARAB PRODUCERS SET A COMMON
PRICING POLICY FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR? B. HAVE THEY
ESTABLISHED A COMMON EXPORT POLICY? HAVE EXPORT QUOTAS
BEEN SET? C. WHAT ARE PRODUCERS PLANS TO INCREASE
PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER? D. WHAT IS PRODUCERS VIEW
OF CURRENT WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION?

5. IN REPLY PLEASE CITE C-ER-4-58345. KISSINGER UNQUOTE
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